



With two decades in the field, Adam Thiel is a recognized thought leader across the fire and emergency services. Serving since 2007 as fire chief for the City of Alexandria, Virginia—a diverse and densely populated urban community in the National Capital Region—Chief Thiel provides overall leadership and strategic direction for the city's fire/injury prevention, all-hazards emergency response, emergency medical services, and emergency management functions. He also chairs the Northern Virginia Emergency Response System (NVERS) and is vice-chair for the Northern Virginia Fire Chiefs.

Adam's operational experience includes serving with distinction in four states (MD, NC, AZ, and VA) as a chief officer, incident commander, company officer, hazardous materials team leader, paramedic, technical rescuer, structural/wildland fire fighter, and rescue SCUBA diver. Chief Thiel directly participated in response/recovery efforts for several major disasters including the

9/11 tragedy, Hurricanes Gustav and Isabel, and the 2009/10 mid-Atlantic blizzards.

In 2002, Adam was appointed by then-Governor Mark Warner to lead the Virginia Department of Fire Programs (VDFP) through a critical post-9/11 transition and state fiscal crisis. Executive Director Thiel transformed VDFP—modernizing systems, adding capacity, and enhancing capabilities—by engaging employees and stakeholders in charting the agency's course. During his tenure in state government, Adam was a member of the *Commonwealth Preparedness Working Group*, *Virginia Emergency Response Council*, *State Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Advisory Committee*, *Critical Infrastructure Working Group*, and *Child Day-Care Council*.

Chief Thiel earned undergraduate degrees in history and fire science from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and University of Maryland University College, respectively. He holds a master's degree in public administration from George Mason University and is finishing his doctoral degree in public administration at Arizona State University. Beyond completing the Virginia Executive Institute and Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government Program for Senior Executives in State and Local Government, Adam is a Certified Emergency Manager® (CEM), Chief Fire Officer® (CFO) designee, and Member of the Institution of Fire Engineers (MIFireE).

For the past fifteen years, Chief Thiel has provided strategy, planning, leadership, and management advice to international organizations, non-profits, government agencies at all levels, educational institutions, and private firms. Adam has authored numerous publications and presented at conferences in multiple states/countries. He teaches graduate-level public administration courses; writes a regular column in *Fire Chief* magazine; serves as a technical adviser for the FireRescue1 website; chairs the program advisory board for 24-7 FIRE; teaches in the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) New Chiefs Leadership and Executive Edge programs; and is an IAFC/International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) Labor-Management Initiative facilitator.

Chief Thiel is active in a number of professional groups, boards and committees. He chairs the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Technical Committee on Emergency Services Organization Risk Management; serves on the NFPA Fire Service Section board; is vice-chair of the National Fire Academy Board of Visitors; is a Fire 20/20 board member; and serves on the steering committee for George Washington University's Homeland Security Policy Institute.

Beyond his professional activities, Adam is a volunteer youth mentor, Ironman® triathlon finisher, Crossfit enthusiast, martial artist, SCUBA diver, and father of two energetic children.

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